

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1802.

LONDON, October 2.

ACCORDING to intelligence from Ratibon, the majority of the deputation of the empire are determined, in the event of the Imperial plenipotentiary persisting in his refusal to ratify the conclusion of the 8th ult. to proceed to regulate the indemnities in conjunction with France and Russia, without communicating with the minister of his Imperial majesty.

According to the supplement to the *Moniteur* of the 9th ult. which contains an account of the population of each canton, district and department of France, with the number of members to be sent by each to the electoral colleges, the whole population of the French republic is 32,598,551. The number of inhabitants in the department of the Seine is stated to be 629,763, including Paris, the population of which appears to be only 536,856, considerably less than that of London. The department of the north appears to be the most populous, the number of its inhabitants being 774,450.

Yesterday the right honourable lord Keith, attended by the lord mayor to the chamberlain's office, was made free of the city, and received a sword of the value of one hundred guineas, voted to his lordship by the corporation for his gallant conduct in Egypt.

A new island was discovered in the Pacific Ocean on the 22d of December, 1801, by Mr. Sharp, late surgeon of the Cornwallis, in his passage from Fort Jackson to China, on board the Hope, lat. 28, miles S. long. 163 deg. E. Mr. Sharp named it "Schank's Island," in honour of captain Schank, of the royal navy. Its length is about five or six leagues—its breadth a little less.

Extract of a letter from St. Petersburg, to a respectable merchant in London, dated August 15, O. S.—For the authority of this letter we can particularly answer.

"Lord St. Helens, quits us in a day or two, having thus far settled every difference.

"I have the satisfaction to inform you that the negotiation on the subject of the restitution due to British merchants by the court of Russia, have of late been very warmly renewed.

"The statement delivered many months ago by lord St. Helens, the British ambassador, having been objected to, a committee of the Russian ministry, appointed to examine them, chiefly for the indemnification demanded for the shipping, it has been proposed that those reclamations not liable to objection should be paid, and the others become subjects of future discussion, and speedy determination.

"I understand the emperor has ordered several sums, amounting together to about 600,000 rubles, to be paid to Mr. Sharp the consul-general, who has managed the details of the business: it is hoped this will satisfy the merchants demand.

"Commissioners, it is said, to be named to arrange with Mr. Sharp the other demands on the original equitable footing of restoring for real losses. I hope all may soon be ended."

Our private correspondence from Paris has, this day, enabled us to remedy, by a communication of some importance, the deficiencies of the French papers, which are again nearly silent, as to events passing in France. A conspiracy of an extensive nature, and which, though suppressed, would excite considerable alarm, if the government did not almost disavow the knowledge of it, has been discovered at Rennes, the former capital of Brittany. The new prefect of that city and its department was, it seems, informed, soon after his arrival, that a Jacobin plot for the restoration of the constitution of 1793, was in existence, and that not, as might be supposed, amongst a few obscure, or proscribed individuals, but amongst persons in considerable stations—the commander of the garrison of the place and several of his officers. According to our correspondent, this magistrate had the accuracy of the information immediately proved to him, when he ordered the commander of the Gendarmes to arrest the commander of the garrison, the former refusing to obey him, he was then reduced to the necessity of trying the fidelity of the whole garrison at a general parade; and even there his orders were received with hesitation, and even with a repetition of the refusal. The troops, however, beginning to divide into parties, and a majority probably appearing for the representatives of the first consul, the commandant was at length arrested, and is now in the temple at Paris.

Such are the circumstances, as they have reached our correspondent. Whether it be that they should be considered chiefly as an exaggeration of some distinction between the officers of the garrison of Rennes, or that the French government do not choose to have the public occupied with such affairs, the Paris papers do not contain a word upon the subject. [Continued.]

According to report, several changes are shortly to take place in the French ministry. The marine and war departments are, it is said, to be united, and confided to Lucien Buonaparte. Joseph Buonaparte is to be minister of foreign affairs and of the home department, which are also to be united, and Talleyrand minister of finance.

Miraculous escape.

The following most singular occurrence comes to us from a quarter perfectly authentic, and still forms the subject of conversation in Brittany. During the utmost phrenzy of the French revolution, there was a curate at Rheims, whose purity and benevolence had so endeared him to people of all descriptions, that in the height of their rage and madness, the September committees dared not openly attack him. Determined therefore on private assassination, they applied to their usual agents; but even their hands, long stained with blood, and hearts accustomed to massacre, turned away with horror from the "deep damnation" of that deed. The good curate remained for sometime protected by his own purity, till three bravoes were brought down from Paris, by whom was arranged the following plan for his destruction:—Two of them were at the dead of night to call up the Holy Man, in order to attend the last moments of a dying penitent. This last was to be represented by the third experienced bravo, who, during the exhortations of the priest, was suddenly and silently to dispatch him. The arrangement so far succeeded that the curate was brought, and the two confederates waited impatiently for the signal, the body of the victim.—To their astonishment, however, the object that first presented itself to them was the curate, who shook his head and said, "Ah! my friends, you applied to me too late; for the poor man is dead, and the corpse is cold already." The assassins struck with remorse and terror, fell on their knees, and confessed all these circumstances, imploring his forgiveness. The curate, who then for the first time obtained a candle from the people of the house, and pulling down the bed cloaths, saw a dagger in the hand of the breathless assassin. The whole city of Rheims crowded the next day to be witness to this extraordinary interposition, until the multiplicity gave orders that the corpse should be taken away. The curate then finding there was no longer any chance for him, emigrated to England, bringing with him the admiration and regret of every one who knew him.

The person to which this remarkable story applies, is the abbé C—, whose benevolent foundations at Somers-town were so highly complimented and applauded some time ago, by Monsieur, and the other French princes, at that time in England.

NEW-YORK, November 22.

Extract of a letter from Madeira, dated 18th September.

"We have had within this week past two severe thunder storms, severe for this place. The first was at night, during which, Banger's Pillar, erected on our beach, was struck with lightning, and the mast at the top splintered. The natives were very much terrified, this being the only instance ever known here of damage being done by lightning. In America, we should not have thought any thing of the thunder; and the Portuguese were astonished that I was not alarmed at it, whilst they were invoking all the saints in the calendar, to protect them from the imminent danger with which they were threatened.

"On the 5th instant, at half past twelve, A. M. a more melancholy catastrophe happened. The Aurora, a Portuguese ship of 550 tons burthen, and 36 guns, lately arrived from Lisbon, bound to Brazil, blew up. She had about 40 casks of powder on board. The explosion was dreadful. I was at the moment sitting at my door with some friends, the ship in full view, only 500 yards distant. Anxious to render every assistance in my power to the miserable sufferers, I immediately ran down to the beach, procured a boat, and obtaining three men and two boys, put off towards the wreck, which, by this time, was enveloped in flames. Mine was the second boat that arrived. On inquiry, I found that only two poor fellows had escaped, of 34 souls on board. They were found on board an English frigate. The quarter deck, with the mizen and main-mast, were blown into the air, and the ship fairly split in two, the ballast and guns, most of which were stowed in the hold, went to the bottom. The ship by this means, was thrown on her side; the fire increasing it became necessary to tow the wreck clear of the shipping. One of the English frigate's boats hauled a tow-line to the fore-mast. We were soon joined by the boats of the other vessels in the harbour, with one or two from the shore. My situation was tolerably hot, as you may suppose. On a Portuguese boat coming along

side, my men were going to desert for the purpose of plundering. I never remember to have been more exasperated in my life, than I was on this occasion, when these fellows discovered such unprincipled inhumanity. One of them actually got off, the others I secured by the throat, and was obliged to draw my dirk, which fortunately was at my side, and threatened to run them through if they attempted to desert me; this threat had the desired effect, and they returned reluctantly to their duty. After tugging for a considerable time, we found at length, the wreck was still at anchor. The night, very fortunately, was perfectly calm, so that not the least injury happened to any other vessels in the harbour. The scene during the night was awful, but that which presented itself at day-light was truly horrid. The poor wretches were lying in every position on board the wreck; some with half their skulls blown off, some without a leg, and others without arms, several were actually roasting in the flames. Eighteen bodies only were found. About 6 I got home, much fatigued and distressed in body and mind. Various opinions circulate respecting this disaster—the most prevalent is, that the act was designedly perpetrated by a desperate villainous sailor, one of the crew, who had sworn vengeance against the captain, for having confined him a few days before the event, for mal-practices. He belonged to Lisbon, where he had been immured in the condemned hole for murder. He was heard to declare that the ship should never depart from this port, and the wretch was sufficiently desperate, to sacrifice his own life with his ship-mates, from motives of private resentment. The ship and cargo were estimated at 60,000l. sterling."

November 23.

The British packet Lord Chesterfield arrived at this port yesterday, in 41 days from Falmouth. She left Falmouth on the 15th October, and brings London papers to the 9th.

The plan of indemnities proposed to Germany by Russia and France, has not been acceded to by the emperor; and the delay has given so much offence to the French government, that its minister at the court of Vienna has received orders to return home, if the business should not be settled immediately. In that case the conditions of the plan will be enforced at the point of the bayonet, and 30,000 French troops are said to be in readiness for this purpose.

The revolution in Switzerland is progressing with great rapidity. The seat of government is in possession of the insurgents, who are headed by the baron d'Erlach and M. de Watteville, the latter of whom is appointed commander in chief. The prospect of tranquillity to this distracted part of Europe appears very distant.

We are indebted to the politeness of a respectable merchant in this city, for a file of the London Morning Chronicle to the 9th of October inclusive, received this morning, by the arrival of the British packet Lord Chesterfield, in 41 days from Falmouth. We did not get them in time to make many extracts from them for publication this day, and have indeed been only able to look hastily over the latest. It appears from them that the emperor still refuses to agree to the plan of indemnities as proposed by Russia and France, and that the first consul has grown quite impatient at the delay. In order to force the business to a conclusion of some kind, a note, in the nature of an ultimatum has been dispatched from the bureau of the minister of foreign affairs; which if not immediately acceded to, the French minister, Laforest, is directed to return home. In that event 30,000 troops are said to be in readiness to pass the Rhine to urge the emperor's compliance by the rhetoric of the *ultima ratio regum*, the bayonet. His Britannic majesty had acceded to the plan of indemnities before as respects the house of Brunswick.

The work of a counter-revolution in Switzerland appears to be very seriously progressing. The new government has been dissolved, and the avowed object of its opposers is the restoration of the old confederacy. The army consists of 30,000 men, and is commanded by baron d'Erlach and M. de Watteville; it has gained an important victory under the walls of Bern, over the army of the government. How far success may finally crown their efforts is quite problematical. The first consul has interfered in the business in a pretty imperative manner; his proclamation on the subject has, however, been received at Paris with marks of very decided disapprobation. What effect this may have, or how far the brave spirit which has, on former occasions, supported Helvetic liberty will now animate its followers and guide them to victory, are subjects on which we can form no satisfactory conclusion. An entire change in the former administration is about to take place. Lucien Buonaparte is to be minister of the marine and war; Joseph Buonaparte is to be minister of the interior and exterior; Talleyrand Perigord is to be made intendant-general of the finances; and Rappier,